

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1-29 are rejected.

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0045030 A1 ("Reynolds"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons as set forth below.

For completeness, Applicants respectfully incorporate by reference herein Applicants' Response filed February 9, 2009 in its entirety. It is believed that Applicants' Response filed February 9, 2009 should have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution and/or to clarify subject matter therein, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22 and 27.

Thus, in view of at least the amendments to independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22 and 27, it is respectfully submitted that Reynolds, as asserted, does not teach each and every element as set forth in independent claims 1, 17, 21, 22 and 27.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, in view of at least the amendments herein to the claims, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has no longer been presented.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn with respect to claims 1-29.

Applicants do not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, subject matter that has been withdrawn, amended and/or cancelled in a continuing and/or related application.

With respect to the present application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of

U.S. Application No. 10/675,377, filed September 30, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 14970US02

Amendment dated July 24, 2009

Accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed July 24, 2009

claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the alleged prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should a disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: July 24, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

/Michael T. Cruz/

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